



## **Minutes City Council's Education Partnership Committee August 17, 2009**

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Education Partnerships Committee held on Monday, August 17, 2009, 3:30 p.m., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, and 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tempe, Arizona.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair  
Councilmember Joel Navarro

### **City Staff Present:**

Adrienne Richwine, Dep Comm Svcs Mgr  
Stan Clark, Driver Improvement Prgm  
Mari Yennie, Comm Relations  
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services  
John Rush, Tempe PD  
Carlos deLeon, Transit  
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec

Jan Hort, City Clerk  
Mary Helen Giustizia, Public Wks  
Tom Ryff, Tempe PD  
Nikki Ripley, Media Relations Dir  
Shelley Hearn, Comm Relations  
Sue Taffe, Comm Outreach Coord  
Travis Dray, Parks & Rec

### **Guests Present:**

Father Ron Poston, Ephiphany Church  
Bill Munch, Tempe Elementary School District  
Spencer Sharp NDSI  
Belinda Endress, NDSI  
Zita Johnson, TUHSD  
Eric Gudino, ASU  
Steve Adolph, TUHSD Superintendent  
Lynette Stonefeld, TCC, Communities in Schools  
Stephanie Salazar, ASU

Leslie Evans, Ephiphany Church  
Ross Thompson, NDSI  
Steve Carvaja, NDSI  
Mike Matwick, Pinnacle Education  
Chris Busch TD3  
Kelly Alexander, Kyrene School Dist  
David Schauer, Supt, Kyrene Elem School Dist  
Chris Bustamonte, Rio Salado College

Councilmember Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and everyone introduced themselves.

### **Agenda Item 1 – Review Education Partnerships Council Committee Action Plan**

The Committee approved the update of accomplishments and agreed upon the future actions items/goals.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Defensive Driving Presentation**

Steve Carvajal, a representative from the National Dynamic Safety Institute (NDSI), was called upon to make a presentation regarding the mission and goals of this non-profit organization. Mr. Carvajal stated that NDSI's mission is to provide safety education for motor vehicles, including boats, ATV's, bicycles and other modes of transportation. Driver safety education is the paramount reason for the existence of this organization. With the goal of reducing vehicular accidents for drivers under the age of 25, Mr. Carvajal announced that NDSI would like to institute a driver improvement program called X C D (EXCEED), in Tempe high schools. This program is designed to teach young drivers responsible decision making.

This program would be available to all licensed drivers in Tempe high schools and is taught by professional driving instructors. There is no charge to the students or schools for this program. The program is held as a one day event with transportation to/from the schools via charter buses. All costs and liability are borne by program sponsors.

Spencer Sharp, Chief Operating Officer of NDSI, stated that this organization is dedicated to reducing the number of accident/fatalities among young drivers. This program is designed to educate young drivers in a controlled, safe environment. Reducing calls for fire and police services is one of the desired outcomes. The frequency of classes would depend upon the number of students interested in the program; however the program is not limited to student age participants. Anyone is welcome to participate in this program as long as they have a valid driver's license. This program is non-accredited because there is no national oversight entity that designates driver education accreditation.

Councilmember Navarro voiced his support of this driver education program. Mr. Carvajal stated that the success of this program rests on the school superintendent's willingness to allow program participants to take one day off from school to dedicate to driver education with NDSI. This would also include allowing NDSI to market this program to school age drivers in Tempe high schools so they understand how to participate in the program. In the meantime the Police and Fire chiefs were asked to contact Tempe high school/charter school superintendents to discuss this program and how it may or may not fit into each school system curriculum. Should the schools wish to participate in this program, City staff can issue a press release announcing the inception of this driver education program. Councilman Arredondo concluded that this topic will be discussed further at the August 21, Council Workshop.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Tempe Elementary District Update**

Chris Busch distributed a press release that outlines the student achievement progress occurring within Tempe elementary schools. Teachers have been tasked with the mission of improving student success and the result of this endeavor is that student achievement is the highest since 2005.

### **Agenda Item 4 – School Resource Officer Status**

Councilmember Arredondo acknowledged the budgetary constraints in grant funding for school resource officers and called upon Police Chief Tom Ryff to expound on this revenue shortfall. Chief Ryff explained that staffing high schools is a Council and Police Department priority and that the budget/personnel resources have been reallocated within the Tempe Police Department to ensure that this community need is met. Steve Adolph, TUHSD Superintendent, praised the City Council and staff for making a public safety commitment to the school system and voiced his commitment to financially supporting this program once the economy and school budgets become more stable.

### **Agenda Item 5 – City of Tempe Summer Partnerships with Tempe Schools**

Travis Dray opened by thanking the Council for supporting recreational partnerships with Tempe schools. These partnerships allow for youth to participate in affordable summer recreational activities, which is a quality of life

amenity. Councilmember Navarro acknowledged the camaraderie and relationships that are cultivated as a result of these programs.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Communities in Schools Program Update**

Lynette Stonefeld announced that the first Teen Resource Center will be opening on the Evans Compadre campus this week. This center will provide clothing for teens, back to school supplies, hygiene item and other necessities that will be available to teens in need of these supplies so that they may better focus on their scholastic experience.

Councilmember Arredondo recognized Father Ron Poston, and Leslie Evans, Epiphany Church representatives for their commitment to the Open Horizons Program, which also focuses on the needs of youth within this community. Kate Hanley added that the Open Horizons Program will be moving from the Church of the Epiphany to the Evans Compadre Campus location.

Kate Hanley stated that federal grant funds have been secured to hire Bobbie Cassano to spearhead the Reduction of Underage Drinking Program. There will be a community based campaign that includes partnering with ASU and drafting legislation that imposes penalties and fines for retailers that sell alcohol to minors. Parental education on underage drinking is another essential component of this program.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Youth Transit Pass**

Carlos deLeon stated that the youth transit pass program has been improved that allows youth (ages 6 – 18) in Tempe to ride light rail and buses for free. Youth passes are available six days a week at the Tempe Transit Store. Currently there are approximately 3,500 students participating in this ridership program. Councilmember Arredondo directed staff to email school superintendents with the statistics of which schools are and are not participating in this program. Staff is currently studying obstacles and potential opportunities to distributing transit passes to youth within the school system. Any updates to bus routes will be made well in advance of issuing transit passes to students. Councilmember Navarro asked if students that reside in Guadalupe and Phoenix that attend Tempe schools are eligible for this youth transit pass. Mr. deLeon responded that Guadalupe students are eligible, however expanding the list of eligible non-resident youth is currently being considered. Staff will be making a presentation to the Council Transportation Committee that includes the budgetary implications of various program expansion ideas.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Nike Reuse a Shoe School Collections**

Mary Helen Giustizia credited committee members for their support of this recycling program. Nike converts old athletic shoes into materials used in sports and playground surfaces. Staff acquired a \$5,000 grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality that has been used to fund promotional materials/distribution and collection bins for this program. School districts will be competing against one another in December to get students and faculty to donate their old athletic shoes. There has been television media coverage of this program, which helps promote the importance of this recycling effort. School superintendents have been encouraged to increase their contributions to this program and the benefits derived from participating in this program.

As a side note, staff will also be expanding recycling education into Tempe schools by making presentations on the value of recycling and how that impacts the global community.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items**

ASU student housing.

Councilmember Arredondo presented Father Ron Poston and Leslie Evans with a gift of appreciation for their participation in the Open Horizons Program.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2009.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.**

Prepared by: Kay Savard  
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner

---

Jan Hort  
City Clerk